

THE GOAT AS A PET FOR GIRLS.

PART I.

IN treating of the goat as a pet for girls, it is necessary to mention at once that my remarks must be taken to apply to the she-goat, and not at all to the male. Those who do not trouble themselves to investigate the matter very closely, having once experienced the pungent odour and other undesirable attributes of the male-goat, fly at once to the conclusion that all goats share, more or less, these peculiarities; whereas those who have any experience of the subject, know that the she-goat is entirely innocent of the charges that may with justice be laid at the door of the sterner sex.

Children living in the country have a widely varied choice in the selection of their pets, but I think that, in point of the advantages to be derived from pet keeping, the goat is second to none (the horse and dog of course excepted).

Gentle and tractable in disposition, it soon becomes greatly attached to those to whom it is in the habit of looking, not only for its food, but for what is at least of equal importance to most naturally gregarious animals, companionship and affection. Where goats are kept in considerable numbers, they are apt to depend for these latter necessities of existence upon each other, but when separated from the companions of their own species they soon learn to love and follow the person who shows them most of kindness and consideration.

In thus speaking of goats generally, I do not wish to convey the idea that they are all identical in their natures, for such is far from the fact. Not only does this apply to different breeds of goats, but it is still more noticeable in different individuals of the same herd. I once reared a family of young rooks, and though they were so alike in outward feature that I found it necessary to affix to the leg of each a garter of different coloured ribbon, yet I came to know them as they grew up and took to flight by the differences in their characters and dispositions. Much more will one find varieties of character in different goats, for they are animals of uncommon intelligence, and will repay a large amount of study of their tastes and habits.

As I have before remarked, these shades of character are best seen where only one or two goats are kept, but in my own herd (which never numbers less than twenty) the opportunities for individual attention are therefore somewhat limited, and yet I could give you a distinguishing trait of character for each individual goat.

I am requested in this short paper to give a

few remarks as to rearing a pet goat, and on subsequent occasions to dwell upon the subjects of feeding and management.

Undoubtedly the best possible way to rear a pet, whether bird or beast, is to feed and tend it from its earliest infancy, so that there may be no divided affection; and a goat so reared will ever after prefer human society to that of its own kind. There is, however, another reason for rearing the proposed pet goat by hand. It may be a surprise to many to hear that goats, such as are desirable for our purpose, are extremely scarce, as yet, in this country, and consequently command a high price.

Kids, however, may often be obtained from those who keep goats for their milk, and these may be easily reared upon cow's milk at a

care and attention as it is the delight of all real lovers of animals to bestow, must be of the aristocracy of its kind, and, in the case of the goat as in that of the horse, good breeding means not only greater beauty, but also greater usefulness.

To proceed, however, to describe the essentials of a well-bred goat. The horns are of little importance, provided that, if they are present, they be well-shaped and handsomely curved; for, though a head without horns is perhaps preferable amongst children (who cannot be restrained from occasionally indulging the inclination to tease), yet, on the other hand, their presence is a very decided ornament, and enables the goat to resist with effect the possible attacks of strange dogs. I

have known a large male-goat, that was hornless, to be seriously mauled by a little fox-terrier, whereas a goat with horns is a match for almost any dog, and may with confidence be entrusted with its own defence.

Horned or hornless, the goat must be short-haired, with a smooth, glossy coat, as nearly as possible approaching that of a horse. This, with very little attention, can be kept in good order, whereas the shaggy coats, such as are common to ill-bred Irish goats, are always matted, filthy, and inconvenient, encouraging vermin, and making milking difficult and unpleasant.

A short, fine coat, and a good pedigree, are what should be specially required of a kid that it is proposed to rear as a pet. Matter of colour and breed must depend much upon the tastes of the individual. I am myself entirely satisfied with the Swiss "Toggenburg" and

"Appenzell" breeds, on account of their wonderful milking qualities. For, having been bred for centuries with especial reference to developing this characteristic, they may now be depended upon to justify their great reputation.

Specimens of the English and English-Nubian goat are to be found that will do all that is possible in milk-production, but the characteristic is insufficiently established, and is not transmitted to their offspring with the certainty that is the case in the Swiss breeds named.

The Toggenburg goat is now well-known in this country, having been introduced in 1884, and specimens may be seen at the London Dairy Show, or any show that includes in its schedule the "Poor Man's Cow."

Unfortunately its reputation has induced unscrupulous persons to advertise the commonest of worthless animals as "Toggenburgs," that are neither by blood, nor even



"THE POOR MAN'S COW."

very small expense. I began my own goat-keeping by rearing in this way a kid that, though of first-rate pedigree, was to have been killed to satisfy the demands of the dairy.

Before, however, going further into the matter, I think it would be well to give some idea of what sort of goat should be chosen for the purpose.

In selecting a kid that has only for a few days seen the light, it is of course necessary to judge of its possibilities mostly by reference to its pedigree, and for this purpose investigation must be made in the *Herd-Book of the British Goat Society*, as all, or nearly all, the desirable goats in this country are those derived from *Herd-Book* stock; and it is most remarkable to observe the difference between well and ill-bred goats, not only in refinements of colour, coat, and shape, but in those higher refinements of gentle birth, good manners, temper, and affection.

A pet, to be the worthy recipient of such

by appearance, entitled to the name. It may be well, therefore, to mention that "none are genuine" without the following distinguishing markings. The colour is a peculiar brown, or mouse-colour, varying somewhat in shade, but unmistakable when once seen. The legs should be white below the knees and houghs, and there should be a white line on each side of the face, running from the ear to the nose, both of which features should be fringed with white. These markings, with a white patch on either side of the tail, should be even, and clearly defined. The breed comes from the canton St. Gallen, in North Switzerland, and is renowned in all parts for its powers of milk-production.

The "Appenzell" goat is another of the sixteen pure breeds of Switzerland, and is native to the canton Appenzell; it seems to differ from the Toggenburg in little else than in colour, being pure white, without markings of any sort. Both of these breeds are without horns, and having, as I have said, been bred with care for the production of milk, have become thoroughly domesticated, and may be depended upon to make pets, that will combine the qualities of intelligence, gentleness, and affection, with the greatest possible usefulness in the production of rich and abundant milk.

Having now supposed that the kid has been procured that is to be the future pet goat, I must proceed to describe how it is to be reared to maturity. The younger it is the easier will be the operation of accustoming it to its artificial diet, as when once it has learned to take its nourishment from its mother, it will only suck from the feeding-bottle when considerably pressed by hunger.

The bottle used for the purpose should be one of the old-fashioned feeding-bottles, without tubes, and must be kept scrupulously clean by being well-rinsed out with tea-leaves at least once each day. The food must be given four times a day, and each time the kid should leave its meal with an appetite. For the first fortnight or three weeks it should be given warm, but afterwards it may be cold, and should be continued for six weeks at least, or, better still, for eight or nine.

The amount used for one kid should be about a quart per diem, and, as the bottle will hold about half a pint, the four meals per diem would just amount to the right quantity.

Kids are precocious little animals, and will probably commence to take a little solid food at a week or ten days of age, and as they

begin to grow they will eat more, so that the ration of milk is supplemented gradually more and more, as the kid requires more nourishment.

Grass and hedge-row weeds should form the first essay of the young teeth, and afterwards meal and hay and, finally, oats and bran, which stage of development will probably be reached at about the age of three weeks. From this time progress should be rapid, especially with plenty of fresh air, exercise, and gambols. The kid will follow its mistress anywhere, and all day long if desired, affording endless amusement and pleasure, by its quaint inquisitive ways and merry gambols, expressing in every movement the "joy of life."

No vegetable food that is sweet and clean will now come amiss, and few herbs will prove unwholesome, but beware of the rhododendron. This is a shrub that is to be found on most lawns, and which is relished by goats to their sorrow. Indulgence in this food, or indeed a very few leaves, will cause great suffering, and if not relieved by sickness will probably result in death.

Food and how it should be given, will, however, form the subject of the next paper.

(To be continued.)

WOMANLY WEAPONS.

PART I. PINS.



GENTLE reader! I invite you not to read of bows or javelins, or such-like weapons, wielded only by a race of Amazons, weapons which could leave in their track only bloodshed, sorrow and hate, nor will you be told any

secret of those "woman's weapons, water-drops," which Shakespeare would attribute to our sex. I write only of those truly peaceful weapons which every woman is proud to wield with skill; whose every trace reveals only thrift, deftness, and industry, leaving behind them only pleasure and delight, I mean those little homely weapons, or tools, if you prefer that name, the womanly weapons of our work-table.

They have all a history to tell us; varying vicissitudes, ups and downs, have more or less marked the course of all of them ere they could be had in their present plenty and perfection.

Let us begin with the simplest of all, our pins. Necessary alike for our toilet or our needlework, they are almost the most important of our "weapons," and have been in use from the remotest ages of the world. Pins of brass are spoken of in the book of Exodus; in later ages they were of bronze, bone, wood, or ivory, or of bronze in a handle of ivory. None of these were so slender nor of so perfect a make as the pins to which we are accustomed, as we know from the very numerous specimens, especially of bronze pins, which have been found in ancient British barrows, buried with their dead amongst other treasures by our forefathers. Time of course has roughened and injured them to a certain extent, but many are so well preserved and have been discovered in such positions as to show that they had been used for the fastening the clothing of those in whose last resting-places they were found.

There is no certainty of the date at which

pins were first manufactured in England, but it is on record that in 1464 complaints had arisen that certain clock-workers had compelled their labourers to take payment for their labour "in pins, girdles, and other unprofitable wares instead of money;" and in the early part of the reign of Richard III., when several statutes relating to trade and manufactures were passed, a large number of artificers joined in a complaint that the articles the fabrication of which had formerly furnished them with the means of gaining a livelihood, were now brought from "ports beyond the sea." Amongst these artificers we find, girdlers, point makers, pinners, wire-mongers and many others. In consequence of this complaint a statute was passed which prohibited the importation of the following: "Girdles, or any harness wrought for girdles, points, laces, leather purses, pouches, pins, gloves, knives, hangers, tailors' shears, scissors and irons," with at least forty other articles which are irrelevant to our present subject. At this date pins were either of boxwood, bone, or silver. As time went on many improvements were made in the manufacture of pins, till by the middle of the 16th century, when they were made of metal, usually of brass, they came to be of so much importance that statutes were enacted with regard to their manufacture. "Up to this period female dress was fastened with ribbons, laces, clasps, hooks and eyes and skewers of brass, silver, or gold; the latter were in fact pins without heads." Some of these enactments in the reign of Henry VIII. are a little curious. In one, "to avoid the slight and false making of pins," it is enacted, "that only such are to be sold as are double-headed, and have the heads fast soldered to the shank of the pin, well smethed, the shank well shaven, the point well and round filed, canted and sharpened." Pins were not to be sold at more than 6s. 8d. per thousand, which had been the current price for two years (we can buy them now for about one-twentieth of this price). This regulation of the price had however to be withdrawn very soon, on account of "a scarcity of pins in this realm." Ladies in those days regarded pins as very acceptable New Year's gifts, though they were sometimes willing to accept money in their stead; hence the origin of the term "pin-

money." These pins were no doubt of a somewhat ornamental kind, and probably of more or less intrinsic value, and would be such as we find described in an account which has come down to us of the dress of the wife of one John Whitcombe, a clothier of fame in London in 1543. It runs thus, "a fair train gown stuck full of silver pins, having a white cap on her head, with cuts of curious needlework under the same, and an apron before her as white as driven snow."

It appears that the manufacture of pins for the toilet, of a kind somewhat approaching those we have now in common use, was introduced to our country from France, from which country they were brought in 1540 for Katharine Howard. Three years after this they were made in England, as we have already seen, though John Hall writing in 1685 would have us believe that the art was not practised until twenty years later, since he asserts that "the way of making pinnes was found out by the English about the 5th year of Queen Elizabeth, which before were brought by strangers to the value of 60,000 pound a year."

However this may be, we can but suppose that English-made pins were both inferior and dear until the art of wire-drawing had been learnt from foreigners, a circumstance which we have good authority for stating, took place in 1565, up to which time English wire was all hand-made, and of bad quality.

During the 17th century a Dutchman established a wire-mill at Sheen, in Surrey, and from that time, at any rate, English pins have carried the palm.

Ere the first half of the 18th century had sped, the manufacture had been established on a large scale in the West of England and in London. At Gloucester and later at Birmingham large works were erected, and it is by the courtesy of the well-known firm of Kirby, Beard & Co., that I am able to give a somewhat minute account of the manufacture both of pins and needles, as it is now practised in their manufactories in various places.

The manufacture of a pin, when entirely made by hand, was a tedious process, or rather series of processes, for it had to pass

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PART II.

IN my first paper upon this subject I gave my views as to the advantages of the pet goat, and directions how to set about obtaining a kid to act in this capacity, and finally how to bring it up "with the bottle."

Supposing now that it has passed through the interesting period of early kidhood and begins to evince an interest in vegetable food. The period when this stage is reached varies very much in different individuals and at different seasons, for in spring, "when green buds are a-swelling," the tender shoots of early vegetation form a much more tempting diet than is afforded in winter by the more ascetic fare available at that season. In the spring therefore a young kid will probably commence to supplement its milk diet at the age of ten days or a fortnight, and in the course of a few days afterwards will be found to be willing to partake of whatever may be set before its elders.

The most important point to observe in feeding goats, young or old, is to provide the food in sufficient variety. Goats will not eat a large quantity of any one sort of food, be it ever so much to their liking, but they love to go from plant to plant nibbling off a few leaves here and a few more there. In winter, when perforce the pasturage must be more restricted in variety, they are apt to turn to a habit that has perhaps more than any other of their delinquencies led to the disfavour in which they stand with gardeners; this habit consists in the neat and rapid removal of the bark from the skin of any tree that may be within reach, and in this manner it is astonishing what an amount of damage may be done in a short time, but as I have before suggested, the temptation to this vice is very much less in summer when the variety of food available is so much greater than in winter.

If the kid is being reared for show, it will be necessary to adopt a more generous scale of feeding than if use is the object in view. A goat's most useful attribute is its power of converting into wholesome milk a quantity of

fodder that would otherwise not be turned to profitable account, and therefore to feed largely with corn and other costly foods is a mistake except under special circumstances. The more liberty a goat can enjoy the more profitably it may be kept, but its ignorance of the etiquette of good behaviour in the garden renders entire liberty usually undesirable. My own goats (from twenty to thirty in number) are never allowed to feed unattended, and an account of their treatment may form a guide to those who wish to know something of the feeding of goats.

The meals are somewhat numerous, as digestion is rapid, and the amount of food that must be dealt with to produce an abundant flow of milk is considerable.

Their breakfast consists of corn and bran in winter or dried acorns in summer, and is given at milking time—about 7 A.M.; at 9.30 they go out upon pasture, attended by a boy with a whip to enforce obedience to discipline. At 12 they return to ruminate on what they have gathered, and go for a second time upon pasture from 3 till 5. At that hour they come in to a second meal of corn or acorns, and are racked up for the night with some cut grass or hay. Kept in this way goats are long-lived and healthy animals. For the last two years I have taken a couple of goats away when I have gone with my children for our holiday in Devonshire, and in this case, as I wish to obtain the largest possible quantity of milk, I have adopted a higher scale of feeding. The cost and results I have published in *Milch Goats and their Management* (Vinton & Co.), and may be excused for quoting them here.

"The two goats were allowed the run of a little yard with shelter from the wet. Their breakfast, given while they were milked, consisted of a good half pint of oats or scalded maize, with a double handful of coarse bran, to which was added any available kitchen refuse. At midday they received each an armful of weeds cut from a disused piece of garden-ground—sow-thistle, comfrey, dandelions, cleavers, and coarse grass.

"At about six o'clock they were allowed to follow some of our party to the beach and range the neighbouring waste land for grass, thistles, bramble, horned poppy, and other sea-side fodder, following us home at dusk. Their supper consisted, like their breakfast, of corn and bran.

"One of these goats was yielding, after six weeks of this life, exactly six pounds fourteen ounces of milk, or nearly five and three-quarter pints daily. Thus it will be seen that this one animal yielded produce to the value of £2 7s. (cow's milk price) during our stay of seven weeks, the total expense for food, hay, corn and bran being 5s. 4d."

The range of choice of fodder will be found very varied. Ivy-leaves, sow-thistle, dandelion, cow-parsnip, cleavers, being especial favourites, with the leaves and twigs of oak, birch, hawthorn, hazel, privet, and other hedgerow trees, in fact very few plants come amiss, and those the goat knows well how to abjure, with the exception, as I have before noted, of the rhododendron. In winter, a daily meal of carrots, parsnips, or mangold, will assist much in the production of milk, together with refuse from the garden and kitchen, and rotten apples and other waste fruit.

An article of diet that must not be omitted is salt. A lump of common rock salt should lie where the goat can lick it from time to time.

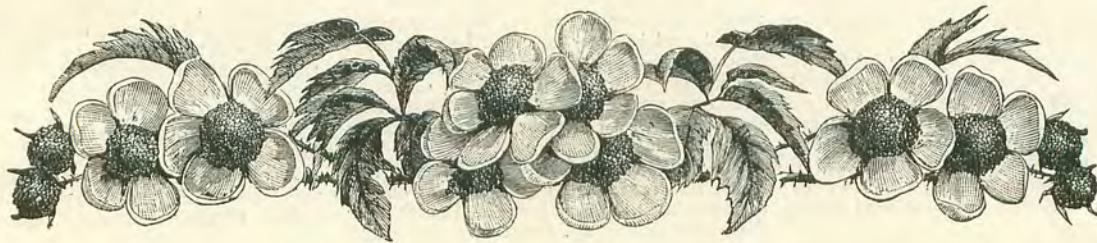
In winter, goats will browse freely from gorse bushes, and this food is said to be extremely nutritious to animals, who, like our useful friend, are enabled to defy the protecting prickles.

Water, sweet and good, should be always at hand, and in hot dry weather the goat will take considerable quantities.

Finally it must be remembered that the food and water must be given with due regard to cleanliness, for the goat is most exacting in this respect, and unless half starved, will assuredly refuse food whereon its delicate nose detects any trace of impurity.

BRYAN HOOK.

(To be concluded.)



ADVICE TO GIRL-CYCLISTS.

CYCLING, however delightful it may be to ourselves, is perhaps not so enchanting to the large number of the general public who do not cycle. The introduction of thousands of cycles among the traffic, and along the country roads, has a tendency to create discomfort, unless riders are careful. It is just as well to avoid adding to it by every means in one's power. For this reason the lady cyclist should avoid riding on the wrong side of the road, ringing innocent people violently out of the way, when she might just as well get out of their way herself, and a variety of other transgressions;

she should not complicate traffic by riding through it for mere bravado, instead of because it is absolutely necessary; and should never ride in it with both hands off, or sitting on one side of her machine. It is not only her own neck she endangers, but the lives of other people, and she is guilty of criminal carelessness when she forgets this.

She should not dress in a style to excite undue notice, or make her pastime unattractive in the eyes of outsiders. Every cycling woman who appears in public, looking neat, trim, and charming, presents to the public an attractive advertisement; she makes other

women want to follow her example, and recommends it in the eyes of all beholders. If, on the contrary, she looks loud, fast, and simply a fright, she is doing it infinite harm, and prejudicing all sensible people against it. To look a fright on a bicycle is one of the simplest of matters, and can be readily achieved by anybody. One has only to wear garments badly cut and badly made, and thoroughly unsuited to their purpose, and, lo! the end is accomplished.—From *Handbook for Lady Cyclists*. By LILLIAS CAMPBELL DAVIDSON, President, *Lady Cyclists' Association*. (Hay Nisbet & Co.)

inquiry, she replied were clothes for the washerman; needless to say her chits were forgeries, or perchance might have been sold to her by another of the same name, which is a not uncommon trick.

For the last ayah who came into my service what can be said enough in praise of her faithfulness! Night or day in the bitter snowy weather of the hills, or 'neath the scorching sun of the Indian plains, early or late, in anxiety or sickness, she was always willing, always cheerful, and ever at hand to attend upon her mistress; her devotion was so deeply rooted that nothing could sever it. She was an intelligent woman also, and sometimes would talk to me upon her ideas of religion.

"Listen, memsahib," she would say, "my religion is this, I avoid all I can that I think is wrong, and I try to do what seems to me to be right. I believe that the great Allah (God) is good and merciful, that he sees me and knows all that I do, and that he will not forget me in another life. Is not this sufficient? Memsahib, if you had always been brought up in one religion, ever since you were old enough to understand, would you not believe it was the right one, and would you change it for another?"

I was greatly attached to her as she to me, and felt the parting with her deeply, although it had to be, when I returned to England.

Some days before I left India she inquired of me in a quavering voice, "Memsahib, what

day is it that you have arranged to make your journey, and at what hour in the day?"

When I told her the probable date she burst into tears and exclaimed, "Oh, memsahib, I shall never find another mistress like you, no, never again wherever I go," and she knelt down and kissed my feet while the tears poured over her dusky cheeks.

"You will not find me anywhere the day you leave, memsahib, everything you need shall be in readiness, but no one will find me, I shall be gone! I cannot stay, dear lady, to wish you good-bye."

She spoke truly, this faithful friend, for when the hour came for my departure all was arranged, but she was nowhere to be found, nor have I ever heard of her since.



THE GOAT AS A PET FOR GIRLS.

PART III.

HAVING treated of rearing and feeding a goat, the present paper will be devoted to the subject of keeping our favourite under the best conditions for its own and its mistress's comfort and enjoyment. There are certainly few pets that can be more easily kept free from all drawbacks of evil odour and other sanitary objections than the one under consideration, provided always that the arrangements are such as to allow of a due regard to the drainage and sanitation of the house or shed in which the animal will have to pass many hours of its existence. Thus the most important detail of goat-keeping will be the proper construction of the goat-house.

To achieve the most perfect cleanliness it will be found best to keep the goat tied up in a miniature stall, as thus all the manure drops upon one spot, and can be readily cleared up and removed, instead of soiling the whole area of the apartment.

In a stall two feet wide the goat will contentedly pass the nights in summer, and many of the days in rough weather in winter.

In Switzerland the goats are all housed in November, and do not go out of doors again until the mountain snows begin to leave the pastures; the amount of space allotted to each during the winter being very small indeed. In painful contrast with their summer life upon the free and breezy mountain-pastures must be these weary months passed in the crowded stuffy cow-house, and yet the animals do not seem to suffer by the confinement.

A goat that is to supply any milk in winter cannot be kept too warm. Energy that is employed in keeping out the cold must be drawn from that which would have been available for milk-production, and, moreover, goats much exposed to cold, naturally grow a coarse and long coat, which spoils their appearance, and renders them more apt to be dirty and offensive. The goat's stall, there-

fore, should be fitted up in a warm stable or shed, the most important consideration being free and ample drainage, for with this condition and with the bedding I am about to describe, the stall can be kept absolutely free from any offensive odour.

In my book, before referred to, I have given a description of the bedding I adopt for my own goats, and which I have found most successful. It consists of a wooden frame, three feet long by two feet wide, upon which are nailed strips of wood about two inches wide, and with spaces of an inch between each. This frame is raised upon iron legs about eighteen inches from the ground, so that broom and mop may be freely used upon the paving beneath. During the day, when the goat is out, the bed can be washed down and put in the fresh air to sweeten, and thus perfect cleanliness may be ensured.

In summer the goat will rest comfortably upon her wooden bed, but in winter a sprinkling of clean straw will add to her warmth and comfort.

The sides of the stalls should be about three feet high and sloping towards the rear, but such details may best be adapted to the space and position available. The fastening-chain should be very short, about six inches, and sliding upon a bar, to allow the goat to stand or lie down. If the chain is any longer the goat will turn herself round in her stall, and thus evade the sanitary arrangements made for her. A rack for hay or grass, and a manger for corn or acorns, will be necessary fittings, and they will require to be kept scrupulously clean. An excellent manger is to be made by dropping an ordinary galvanised pail into a hole in a board, and this arrangement certainly facilitates cleaning, but when chopped roots are given, as they should be in winter, I think there is some danger of the roots acting upon the metal and producing unwholesome results, and for this reason I have discarded the pails in favour of wooden mangers. The edge of the manger should be

eighteen or nineteen inches from the floor or bed upon which the goat stands.

Grooming is an operation that a well-bred, sleek-coated goat will well repay, and the art may best be acquired by noting how it is performed upon a horse, though the general health and condition of the animal will have more effect upon the gloss of its coat than any quantity of labour expended in brushing.

The task of milking a favourite goat is far from being an arduous one, and may soon be learnt by a fairly neat-handed person. The teat must be firmly grasped and the forefinger and thumb so placed that the milk cannot flow back into the udder, the second, third, and fourth fingers are then brought to bear successively to press the milk down and keep it flowing in a steady stream until the teat is empty, when the grasp of the forefinger is relaxed to allow a fresh flow of milk from the udder to be in its turn pressed downwards until every drop has been withdrawn.

A beginner will find the operation easiest when half the milk has been already taken, a full, tight udder being often very difficult to manipulate.

Milking should be performed as nearly as possible every twelve hours, and not oftener. A young goat has sometimes considerable trouble and difficulty in retaining the milk so long, and at first a portion may run away, but the capacity of the udder soon becomes equal to the requirements, and after the first week little inconvenience will be noticed.

Very little training will induce a goat to go in harness provided it is already a gentle and tractable animal, and children who possess a goat usually sooner or later try its paces in some sort of vehicle. For this purpose an ordinary mail-cart can soon be adapted. But to pursue the subject further I should exceed my allotted space, and I must therefore bring my remarks to a close, only hoping that I have said enough to show that the goat may very efficiently fulfil the office of "a pet for girls."